

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The application has been allowed, subject to the correction of formal matters under *ex parte* Quayle.

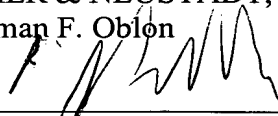
In response to the objection to Claim 6, the grammatical error therein has been corrected.

The Examiner has objected to the specification because equations 2 and 3 allegedly reduce to  $F_z=0$ . However, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that equation 2 is directed to the penetration resistance during penetration operation. On the other hand, the value of the frictional resistance  $F_{fz}$  (equation 3) is calculated by operating the lift cylinders in an unloaded (unlanded) floating state (page 9, lines 7-10). Thus, the value  $F_{ud}$  of the lift cylinder load will be different in equation 3 (where the lift cylinders are unloaded) than in equation 2. In view of the above, it is evident that the value of equation 2 does not reduce to zero.

Applicants believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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